

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the listed Japanese patent documents are also enclosed.

Japanese patent document number 9-330867 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,864,142.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following co-pending U.S. patent application. A copy of this application is also enclosed.

Filing Date

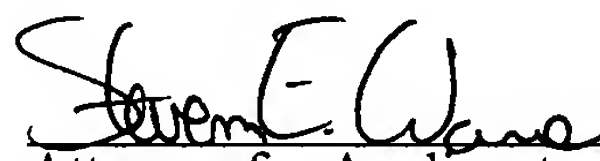
August 28, 2003

Applicants request that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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SEW/eab



FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) December 5, 2003		ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.023135		APPLICATION NO. 10/617,682			
		APPLICANT Kotaro AKUTSU et al.					
		FILING DATE July 14, 2003		GROUP Unassigned			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		US-5,717,482	02/10/1998	Akutsu et al.	355	53	
		US-5,858,587	01/12/1999	Yamane et al.	430	22	
		US-5,864,142	01/26/1999	Muraki et al.	250	491.1	
		US-6,054,713	04/25/2000	Miyake et al.	250	492.24	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		9-330867	12/22/1997	Japan			Abstract
		5-89815	04/09/1993	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.